THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Funds Collected for Kargil War

1372. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of funds collected in the name of 'Kargil' war;

(b) the amount spent so far; and

(c) the procedure laid down for disbursing the fund?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) voluntary contributions/donations made by individuals, institutions, associations, etc., for the benefit of the casualties in Kargil conflict to the National Defence Fund (NDF) amounted to Rs. 472.56 crores as on 31.1.2000. Out of this, Rs. 103.20 crores has been released so far. Releases from this fund are made on approval of the Executive Committee of the Fund which consists of Prime Minister as Chairman and Home Minister and Defence Minister as its members.

Army Headquarters has instituted a separate welfare fund called the Army Central Welfare Fund since 1959. Contributions have been received for this fund from various donors for rehabilitation of battle casualties including that of the Kargil conflict. A sum of Rs. 262 crores has been collected in this fund of which Rs. 260.82 crores has been earmarked for the benefit of families of deceased soldiers and disabled soldiers invalided out of service. This is not a public fund and is managed by Army.

Government have no information about funds collected by other agencies.